Welcome to the Wonderful World of ADOT Local Government and Transportation Enhancement Projects

What's the Difference?

- Local Government (LG) Projects begin with a request from the LG sponsor
- Enhancement Projects begin with an application submittal to Transportation Enhancement Review Committee (TERC)
  - TERC reviews and approves applications each year
- They proceed through the same environmental clearance process

Transportation Enhancement Projects

- Local Government Projects
  - Local Government hires own consultants
- State Projects
  - On Calls contracted by ADOT for State TE projects

ADOT Local Government/Enhancement Projects

Environmental Process

Project Development

- ADOT LG Section Engineer receives request from LG for Federal $$
  - Project listed in TIP and STIP
  - Requests TRACS & Federal Numbers
  - Notifies NEPA Planner team lead that new project has been initiated
  - Team lead assigns projects based on workloads and project complexity

All federal-aid projects require an environmental analysis and an Environmental Clearance certification.

Level of Environmental Analysis depends on significance of environmental impacts

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Environmental Analysis (EA)
- Categorical Exclusion (CE)

The majority of Local Government & Enhancement Projects are Categorical Exclusions

Local Government Responsibility

Local Government sponsor is responsible for obtaining all needed resource information and preparing technical analysis reports in a accordance with ADOT process.

Environmental Process Begins

- LG schedules Kick-off meeting to discuss project elements and environmental process
- LG submits Initial Scoping Letter/ Project Assessment (PA) or Design Concept Report (DCR)
- ADOT Project Manager distributes document to NEPA Planner
- NEPA Planner reviews and sends letter outlining technical document needs and level of environmental documentation (CE)

Environmental Process Continues

- LG completes public and agency scoping process – provides copy of letter and recipient list
- LG submits Technical Reports
  - Biology
  - Cultural Resources
  - Hazardous Materials

Environmental Process Moves Forward

- ADOT Technical staff review technical reports and request revisions or approve/concur with findings
  - ADOT/FHWA will consult with State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and/or Tribal Communities as appropriate

Environmental Process Next Steps

- LG submits *draft* Categorical Exclusion Checklist for review and comment

- ADOT NEPA planner, technical staff, and section manager review and comment on draft document.

- NEPA planner sends comments to LG and may meet with LG/consultant to clarify comments

Environmental Process Completed

- LG revises draft document and submits final CE Checklist final review and approval
  - NEPA planner reviews to determine all changes have been made
  - Section Manager reviews
- ADOT/FHWA will issue final environmental clearance
- ADOT NEPA planner distributes approved document to LG, FHWA, and ADOT departments

How Long Does It Take?

IT DEPENDS...

- Complexity of project
- Timeliness of Technical Reports
- Response from SHPO/Tribes
- Timeliness of revision submittals
- Quality of draft CE Checklist submittal
- Workload